



HF Happenings

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No 696

the week of 14 March 2016

SARL Youth Sprint

The results of the SARL Youth Sprint held on Saturday 20 February have been released. The committee received five logs from young people.

1st Mitchell Mynhardt, ZS6YH, 98 points

2nd Nathan Busse, ZU6X, and Robert van der Meulen, ZU6BOB, 53 points each

4th Connor Middleton, ZU6CM, 49 points

5th Chané Greeff, ZS4CG, 24 points

Congratulations to all.

SARL Digital Contest

The results of the SARL Digital Contest held on Sunday 21 February have been released. The committee received five logs.

1st Mitchell Mynhardt, ZS6YH, 816 points

2nd Sydney Smith, ZS1TMJ, 546 points

3rd Allan Saul, ZS1LS, 483 points

4th Ryan Gibson, ZS6GGR, 198 points

5th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC, 165 points

Congratulations to all.



Heil Sound Celebrating 50th Anniversary

Heil Sound, a name that is probably synonymous within the Amateur Radio community for its microphones and "boom set" microphone/headset combinations, is marking its 50th anniversary this year www.heilsound.com/. Heil Sound came into being in 1966 as Ye Olde Music Shoppe, a music store in Marissa, Illinois, the hometown of its founder, Bob Heil, K9EID. The celebration, called "50 Years of Maximum Rock N' Roll," kicked off at the winter NAMM show. A commemorative series of interviews, packaged as podcasts, also debuted with the new year. The series highlights the history of Heil Sound <http://podcasts.heilsound.com/>.

Bob Heil initially made a name for himself working with music performers to provide sound reinforcement for their live gigs, initially supplying full sound system packages for venues and festivals throughout the Midwest and later working with world-class acts, such as Humble Pie, The Who, The Grateful Dead, and Joe Walsh, WB6ACU. Heil said it was the Dead's Jerry Garcia who suggested changing the name of his enterprise to Heil Sound. Among other innovations, Heil created the quadraphonic sound system for The Who's "Quadrophenia" tour as well as the Heil Talk Box made famous by Joe Walsh and Peter Frampton.



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



By 1982, Heil Sound had curtailed the touring side of the business and began concentrating on developing products for the Amateur Radio market. Heil also launched a home theatre division. Amateur Radio and professional audio came together in 2006, when Walsh suggested that Heil Sound develop microphones for concert use. Heil Sound designed and manufactured high-quality microphones, and has gained a reputation among music performers for its professional microphone products, such as the PR30 and PR40.

Bob Heil and his wife and business partner Sarah, who is the president of Heil Sound, are frequent visitors at major Amateur Radio conventions and gatherings.

The World of Low Power (QRP) Operation

Dan Maloney, KC1DJT, describes the World of QRP Operation in his Hackaday article "How Low Can You Go?" Newly minted hams like me generally find themselves asking, "What now?" after getting their tickets. Amateur radio has many different sub-disciplines, ranging from volunteering for public service gigs to contesting; the closest thing the hobby has to a full-contact sport. However, as I explore my options in the world of ham radio, I keep coming back to the one discipline that seems like the purest technical expression of the art and science of radio communication - low-power operation, or what is known to hams as QRP.

With QRP, you can literally talk with someone across the planet on less power than it takes to run a night-light using a radio you built in an Altoids tin. Now that is a challenge I can sink my teeth into. Read Dan's article at

<http://hackaday.com/2016/03/08/how-low-can-you-go-the-world-of-qrp-operation/>

Vessel with Rich Amateur History - the *Bowdoin* - Being Refurbished for Further Exploring

The schooner *Bowdoin*, which has a prominent place in early Amateur Radio history, will



be re-launched this spring. The vessel relied on Amateur Radio operators for communication during explorer Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic Expedition of 1923 and on the MacMillan-McDonald-Byrd Expedition of 1925. Now it is undergoing extensive renovation and refitting in Maine. Named after MacMillan's alma mater, Bowdoin College, the *Bowdoin* today is the official vessel of the State of Maine and the flagship of Maine Maritime Academy's Vessel Operations and Technology Program, which readied the vessel for re-

March

- 18 - All schools close
- 19 and 20 - SARL VHF/UHF Field Day
- 20 - Autumn equinox, Palm Sunday
- 21 - Human Rights Day
- 22 - Closing date for April Radio ZS articles; World Water Day
- 23 - World Meteorological Day
- 24 - Purim
- 25 - Good Friday
- 26 - Two Oceans Marathon
- 27 - Easter Sunday
- 28 - Easter Monday / Family Day

April

- 2 - RaDAR Challenge
- 5 - All schools open
- 7 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
- 9 - SARL Autumn QRP Contest
- 10 - SARL Youth Net at 15:00 UTC on 7 070
- 18 - World Amateur Radio Day
- 22 - Earth Day
- 23 - Pesach (1st day)
- 24 - ZS4 Sprint
- 25 - Closing date for May Radio ZS articles
- 27 - Freedom Day
- 30 - Pesach (8th Day)

fitting last year <http://mainemaritime.edu/waterfront/schooner-bowdoin/>.

According to an article in the 25 February edition of *The Ellsworth American* newspaper, work is under way at a Camden, Maine, shipyard on the deck and hull of the 95-year-old schooner, built in East Boothbay, Maine, in 1921. Maine Maritime Academy students are rebuilding the vessel's diesel engine, a later amenity. The *Bowdoin* is set to re-launch around 1 June.

In 1923, MacMillan had turned to the ARRL for help in outfitting his expedition with better wireless gear, and, as Michael Marinaro, WN1M, explained in his June 2014 *QST* article, "Polar Exploration," that help "was enthusiastically provided

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/June2014/Marinaro.pdf>.

Hiram Percy Maxim and the Board agreed to furnish support as well as recruit an expert operator to accompany the expedition. Donald H. Mix, 1TS, of Bristol, Connecticut was chosen for the task."



At Wiscasset, Maine, with the schooner Bowdoin, ARRL sponsors check out the receiver furnished by Zenith for the 1923 Arctic Expedition. (L-R) F.H. Schnell, 1MO, Traffic Manager; K.B. Warner, 9JT, Secretary-Manager; Hiram Percy Maxim, 1AW, ARRL President.

League Board member M.B. West custom-designed the equipment, which was built by radio amateurs at his firm, Zenith Electronics. The transmitter operated on medium-wave frequencies with a power of 100 W and used the call sign WNP - for "Wireless North Pole." As Marinaro explained in his article, with Mix as the ship's radio operator, "WNP transmitted weekly 500-word press releases and listings of stations worked and heard. Once received by amateur stations, these reports were delivered to local affiliated newspapers of the North American Newspaper Alliance; from there, they were distributed syndicate-wide by telegraph."

In 1925, the *Bowdoin* headed to Greenland. "The outstanding accomplishment of the expedition was in the sphere of radio," Marinaro wrote. "Utilizing short waves, the expedition was in consistent contact with the outside world throughout the journey, to the delight of the amateurs who were able to work them. The phenomenal success proved to the Navy that short waves were definitely superior to the long and ultra long waves on which the fleets had been relying." Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/vessel-with-rich-ham-history-the-bowdoin-being-refurbished-for-further-exploring>.

VKOEK Heard Island

On 10 March, the "Braveheart" departed Cape Town, South Africa destination Heard Island. The voyage is expected to take ten days and you can follow her progress at <https://share.delorme.com/vkOek>. While at sea, the operators will be signing ZL/home call/mm and/or ZL/ZS9HI/mm.

VKOEK will be active on all bands using CW, SSB and RTTY with up to eight stations from two different locations for three weeks (approximately from 20 March to 10 April). Book-mark www.vkOek.org for updates.

WINQSL

The WINQSL database (on the market since 1987 with around 100 000 QSL manager information which is updated monthly) has been freeware since January 2016. It can be downloaded at www.winqsl.com.

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Morocco, 5E. Pedro, EA7IZJ, Jorge, EA9LZ, Jiri, OK1RI, YL Nicole, ON6NM, Petr, OK1FFU, Vaclav, OK1VVT, Karel, OK1JKT, and Jim, W7EJ, will be active as 5E5E from the CN2R Casa-blanca contest station during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (26 and 27 March) as a Multi-2 entry. Look for activity to start before the contest on 16 March. QSL via W7EJ. Visit the CN2R web page at <http://cn2r.net>

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Sao Tome, S9. Bruno, S9BK has cancelled his side trip to Principe (AF-044) and will remain active from Sao Tome (AF-023) until 24 March. QSL via HB9BEI.

Equatorial Guinea 3C. 3C7A is the call sign issued to Ken, LA7GIA, for his 11 to 21 March activity from Malabo, Bioko Island (AF-010), Equatorial Guinea. He plans to be active on 80 to 10 metres CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via LA7GIA and LoTW; log search on Club Log.

Mayotte FH. Gil, F4FET, will be active as FH/F4FET from Mayotte (AF-027) before and after joining the Juan de Nova DXpedition (FT4JA). The dates are 24 and 25 March and 16 to 21 April. He will operate SSB and RTTY on 40 to 10 metres from the main island (Grande-Terre), as well as from Petite-Terre, Zamburu and the Choazil Islands.

Mayotte FH. Pat, F2DX, and Jacques, F6BEE, will be active as FH/F2DX and FH/F6BEE, respectively from Mayotte Island (AF-027) before joining FT4JA Juan De Nova 2016 DXpedition, between 18 and 24 March. Activity will be on 40 to 6 metres using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will have two identical stations on the air (Elecraft K3, SPE Expert 1.3 KFA into simple monoband verticals). QSL via their home call sign, LoTW, OQRS, direct or by the Bureau.

Madeira Islands, CQ9. Members of the CT3 Team will be active as CQ9T from Funchal during the CQ WW WPX SSB Contest (26 and 27 March) as a Multi-Single/Low-Power entry. QSL via CT3KN. Operators mentioned are Ricardo, CT3KN, Daniel, CR9ABH, Xavier, CS9ABC, and Nicola, CS9ABE.

FT4JA Juan De Nova DXpedition News (7 March Press Release). In just 10 days, the first 2 operators (F2DX and F6BEE) will head to Mayotte island. They plan to be active between 18 and 24 March on 40 to 6 m, signing FH/F2DX and FH/F6BEE. Reports are welcome to give us an idea of the propagation, which will be similar on Juan de Nova.

The eight other operators will join them later. We are filling the suitcases with all the sensitive equipment that has not been shipped on the crates. Each piece is carefully checked. On the other hand, we are working on the last details. We just released a webpage dedicated to 6 m operation which gives all details for TEP and EME contacts tentative (Earth-Moon-Earth).

Our pilots received a bunch of reports regarding 12 and 17 m RTTY frequencies. Because it was not our first aim to activate these slots, we have decided not to work RTTY on these bands

and keep the focus on 30, 20 and 15 m to maximize the number of unique call signs worked. The band plan has been updated.

On the main page of the website, we just uploaded a short video called "We are ready" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6OlsgpKrgg> with a message to the international amateur radio community. We are preparing a communication about the QSL and logs. This information will be published on the website before our departure. Get ready!

This week in History

(The week starting 14 March 2016)

17 March - Celebrated as Saint Patrick's Day commemorating the patron saint of Ireland

44 BC - Brutus and fellow conspirators assassinated Julius Caesar in the Senate chamber in Rome. After first trying to defend himself against the murderous onslaught, Caesar saw Brutus with a knife and asked "Et tu, Brute?" (You too, Brutus?) Caesar then gave up the struggle and was stabbed to death. (15 March)

1813 - Explorer and medical missionary David Livingstone (1813 - 1873) was born in Blantyre, Scotland. He arrived at Cape Town, Africa, in 1841 and began extensive missionary explorations, often traveling into areas that had never seen a white man (19 March)

1820 - The first 1820 British Settlers arrive in South Africa (17 March)

1879 Albert Einstein (1879 - 1955) was born in Ulm, Germany. His theory of relativity led to new ways of thinking about time, space, matter and energy. He received a Nobel Prize in 1921 (14 March)

1984 - Koeberg Nuclear Power Station becomes operational (14 March)

1990 - Namibia gains Independence (21 March)

2941 (SR) Thorin and Gandalf travel to Bree on separate ways (14 March)

3019 (SR) Samwise finds Frodo in the tower; Frodo had been stung by Shelob and carried to the tower by the orcs (14 March)

3019 (SR) the Battle of the Pelennor Fields; Aragorn raises the standard of Arwen; King Théoden is slain (15 March)

3019 (SR) Frodo and Samwise escape and begin their journey north along the Morgai (15 March)

3019 (SR) Aragorn musters the armies while Gandalf, Pippin, Legolas and Gimli prepare to depart for Mordor (17 March)

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 14 to 21 March 2016

CLARA Chatter Party

17:00 UTC 15 March to 17:00 UTC 16 March
and 17:00 UTC 19 March to 17:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: CW, Phone

Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 2 m

Classes: Single Op - low or high

Max operating hours: 24

Max power: HP: >200 W; LP: 200 W

Exchange: RS(T), name and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 10 points per QSO with CLARA

member; 5 points per QSO with CLARA

family member; 5 points per QSO with non-

member YL; 1 point per QSO with OM

Multipliers: Each VE province/territory once

per band per mode; Each DXCC country

(must be YL QSO) once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 18 April 2016
E-mail logs to: ve9qlf@nbnet.nb.ca
Mail logs to: Linda Friars, VE9GLF, 35 Upper Quaco Road, Baxter Corner, NB E2S 2S2, Canada
Find rules at:
<http://www.clarayl.ca/index.php/claracontesrules>

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 16 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 17 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 16 March
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 18 March 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 16 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 17 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 19 March 2016
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW
20:00 - 21:30 UTC 16 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and serial no
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 23 March 2016
Upload log at: <http://www.rsqbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsqbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/r80mcc.shtml>

NAQCC CW Sprint
00:30 - 02:30 UTC 17 March

Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country and NAQCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 2 points per QSO with member
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Key Type Mult: 2 x if straight key, 1,5 x if bug, 1 x if other
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults x key type mult
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC March 20, 2016
Upload log at:
<http://naqcc.info/sprintlog.html>
Mail logs to: John Shannon, K3WWP, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201, USA
Find rules at:
<http://naqcc.info/sprint201603.html>

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 18 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 19 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 18 March
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 March 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rtty.html>

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 18 March
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

BARTG HF RTTY Contest
02:00 UTC 19 March to 02:00 UTC 21 March
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op Expert All Band; Single Op All Band; Single Op All Band 6 Hours; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Single; Multi-Multi
Max operating hours: Single Op: 30 hours with at least 3 hour rest period; Single Op 6 Hours: 6 hours; Multi-Op: 48 hours
Exchange: RST, serial no and 4-digit time (UTC)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: DXCC countries once per band; JA, W, VE and VK areas once per band; Continents once regardless of band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total country/area mults x continents
Submit logs by: 02:00 UTC 28 March 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: <http://bartg.rsqbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: <http://www.bartg.org.uk/>

Russian DX Contest

12:00 UTC 19 March to 12:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band Mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op All Band CW - low or high; Single Op All Band SSB - low or high; Single Op Single Band Mixed; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; SWL

Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: Ru: RS(T) and 2-character oblast; non-Ru: RS(T) and serial no

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: Ru Stations: 2 points per QSO

with same country same continent; Ru Sta-

tions: 5 points per QSO with same country

different continent; Ru Stations: 3 points

per QSO with different country same conti-

nent; Ru Stations: 5 points per QSO with

different continent; non-Ru Stations: 10

points per QSO with Ru station; non-Ru Sta-

tions: 2 points per QSO with same country;

non-Ru Stations: 3 points per QSO with dif-

ferent country same continent; non-Ru Sta-

tions: 5 points per QSO with different con-

tinent

5 points per QSO with /MM

Multipliers: Each oblast once per band; Each

country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO

points x total mults

Submit logs by: 12:00 UTC 3 April 2016

E-mail logs to: logs@rdxc.org

Upload log at:

<http://www.rdx.org/asp/pages/wwwlog.asp>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rdx.org/asp/pages/rulesg.asp>

Virginia QSO Party

14:00 UTC 19 March to 02:00 UTC 20 March
and 12:00 - 24:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: CW, Phone, Digital

Bands: All, except WARC

Classes: Single Op - fixed, mobile or expedi-
tion - high, low or QRP - multi-band or single-
band - CW, phone, digital or mixed; Multi-
Single - fixed, mobile or expedition - high,

low or QRP - multi-band or single-band - CW,
phone, digital or mixed; Multi-Multi - fixed,
mobile or expedition - high, low or QRP -
multi-band or single-band - CW, phone, digi-
tal or mixed

Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: VA: Serial no and county; non-VA:

Serial no and state, province or DX

Work stations: Once per band per mode

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 15 April 2016

E-mail logs to: vqp@verizon.net

Mail logs to: VA QSO Party, Call Box 599,
Sterling, VA 20167, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/2016_VQP/2016_VQP_Rules.html

Louisiana QSO Party

14:00 UTC 19 March to 02:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: CW/Digital, Phone

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2 m

Classes: CW/Digital - QRP, low or high;

Phone - QRP, low or high; Mixed Mode - QRP,
low or high; Rover - CW, digital, phone mixed
- QRP, low or high

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;

QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: LA: RS(T) and Parish; non-LA:

RS(T) and state, province or country

Work stations: Once per band per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per phone QSO; 4

points per CW/Digital QSO; LA Rovers: add

50 points to score for each parish activated;

Bonus: add 100 points to score for working

N5LCC at least once

Multipliers: LA stations: Each LA parish,

state, province, country once per band per

mode; Non-LA stations: Each LA parish once

per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO

points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 19 April 2016

E-mail logs to: logs@laqp.org

Mail logs to: LAQP, Robert Baker, 136

Northwood Drive, West Monroe, LA 71291,
USA

Find rules at:

http://laqp.louisianacontestclub.org/laqso_rules.htm

Feld Hell Sprint

17:00 - 18:59 UTC 19 March

Mode: Feld Hell

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: (see rules)

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: (see rules)

Bonus Points: (see rules)

Multipliers: (see rules)

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 26 March 2016

Upload log at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/leprechaun-sprint>

UBA Spring SSB Contest

07:00 - 11:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single; SWL

Max power: non-QRP: >10 watts; QRP: 10 watts

Exchange: ON: RS, serial no and UBA Section; non-ON: RS and serial no

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with Belgian station

Multipliers: Each UBA Section

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 3 April 2016

E-mail logs to: ubaspring@uba.be

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.uba.be/hf/contest-rules/spring-contest>

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest

01:00 - 03:00 UTC 21 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Band; All Band

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, member no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with non-member; 3 points per QSO with member on same continent; 5 points per QSO with member on different continent

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once; Multiply mults by 2 if >50 members worked

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 27 March 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at:

<http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/autolog.php>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: <http://fpqrp.org/pigrun/>

Bucharest Contest

18:00 - 20:59 UTC 21 March

Mode: CW, SSB, Digital

Bands: 80, 40 m

Classes: Single Op - CW, SSB, digital or mixed - QRP or low - 2 band or single band; Multi-Op Low Power - CW, SSB, digital or mixed - 2 band or single band; SWL

Max power: LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: YO: RS(T), QSO no and Sector/County; non-YO: RS(T), QSO no and Country Code

Work stations: Once per mode

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO: YO3 - YO3 or YO - YO or YO - Foreign; 4 points per QSO: YO3 - YO or YO - YO3 or YO3 - Foreign

Multipliers: Each YO county; Each YO3 sector; Each country code

Score Calculation: Total score = total score of each segment (total QSO points x total mults)

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 5 April 2016

E-mail logs to: fenyo3jw@yahoo.com

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://yo3test201x.blogspot.ro/p/blog-page.html>

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 23 March
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 23 March
Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 23 March
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 23 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 24 March
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 20:00 - 21:30 UTC 24 March
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 25 March
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 25 March
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 25 March
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 00:00 UTC 26 March to 23:59 UTC 27 March
FOC QSO Party, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 26 March
Low Power Spring Sprint, 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 March

VHF Happenings

World-Famous Moonbounce Enthusiast Doug McArthur, VK3UM, SK

Renowned Earth-Moon-Earth (EME, Moonbounce) enthusiast Doug McArthur, VK3UM, of Glenburn, Victoria, Australia, died on 21 February, following a stroke. He was 74. Within the EME community, McArthur, a radio amateur for nearly 60 years, enjoyed a worldwide reputation for his expertise, exploits, and accomplishments.

He was well known for his 8,6 metre dish, which he used on 1 296 MHz in 2006 to set a moonbounce DX record by working CT3/DL1YMK in Portugal, a distance of 18 342.3 kilometres (11 372.2 miles).

His early interest in Amateur Radio guided his choice of career in radio communication and broadcasting. VK3UM became a stalwart of the VHF bands, pursuing contacts via various scatter modes, aircraft reflection and inevitably moonbounce on 2 metres and 70 centimetres.

It was after he retired to rural Glenburn, northeast of Melbourne, that he purchased his 8,6 meter Kennedy dish, although a stroke in late 1999 interrupted work on that project <http://www.vk3um.com/History.html>. Eventually he rigged the dish with a dual feed, to work on 70 and 23 centimetres. Along the way, he developed some key software applications now used by moonbounce operators around the world, including his *EME Calc* package, for assessing and simulating every aspect of an EME station's operation. His *EMR Calc* software, for assessing any amateur station's compliance with electromagnetic radiation safety standards, is known and used around the globe. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/world-famous-moonbounce-enthusiast-doug-mcarthur-vk3um-sk>.

Thanks to the Wireless Institute of Australia



Elementary Schoolers' CubeSat Ready to Deploy from ISS

The 400 youngsters attending a suburban Washington, DC, parochial school are eagerly waiting the day the CubeSat they constructed will be deployed from the International Space Station. The little STMSat-1 spacecraft <http://www.stmsat-1.org/rmoc/>, an educational project



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925



of pupils attending St Thomas More (STM) Cathedral School in Arlington, Virginia, is equipped with a slow-scan TV (SSTV) payload that will transmit on 70 centimetres (437,800 MHz). The school won a NASA competition for the launch. The satellite is the first to be designed and built by grade-schoolers, who have been supported by NASA technical advisors. Transported to the ISS in December by an Orbital ATK Cygnus spacecraft, the kit-built 1U satellite had been scheduled for release in mid-February, but deployment was postponed.

"The STM Sat-1 mission is to perform Earth observation and engage grade-school students around the world as remote Mission Operation Centres," the STMSat-1 website explains. The satellite project is part of the school's STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education initiatives. St Thomas More includes students from pre-kindergarten through grade 8. School Principal Eleanor McCormack is the project manager.

NASA's Technology Demonstration Office is the space agency's sponsoring organization. The school has been working with Joseph Pellegrino at Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland and with the Arlington Amateur Radio Club. NASA provided the school with a mobile "cleanroom" to ensure that the construction phase met with strict guidelines and standards for launch and deployment from the ISS. NASA also provided the school with an antenna, so the school can receive the SSTV images and temperature readings the satellite sends back. The students already have tested their CubeSat by sending it aloft on a tethered balloon. The school has been working with the Arlington Amateur Radio Club.



What STMSat-1 should look like once it is in Earth orbit.



The STMSat-1 payload. An ISS crew-member will have to pull the red lanyard to remove the lens cap from the CubeSats camera before its deployment.

The SSTV camera on board STMSat-1 will transmit a Martin-2 image every 30 seconds, but no beacon. The youngsters are hoping it will send back images of Earth as seen from space. The transmitter runs 3 W and there is no on-board data storage capability.

The little satellite also carries a medal blessed by Pope Francis, a capsule filled with personal items from St Thomas More's annual auction winners and a metal plate etched with the signatures of all STM students, faculty and staff.

The project aims to engage other schools around the world as "Remote Mission Operation Centres" (RMOC) <http://www.stmsat-1.org/rmoc>. STMSat-1 has an estimated lifetime of at least 9

months. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/news/elementary-schoolers-cubesat-ready-to-deploy-from-iss>.

Start building a high gain 144 MHz yagi for tests with St Helena Island

VHF amateurs in Division 1 from Cape Town along the West Coast, including Division 3, should start preparing for tests on 144 MHz with Bruce Salt, ZD7VC, on St Helena Island. Bruce is located at Jamestown on St Helena and is currently acquiring a 144 MHz beam antenna with a telescopic mast to operate portable from the fort on the mountain, which has a clear view towards the west coast of South Africa. He will be joined by Pieter Jacobs, V51PJ, at Rosh Pinah, Namibia, who is already equipped with a very high gain horizontal antenna array for Trans-

atlantic tests on 144 MHz. Pieter operates both analogue and digital modes, including on 50 and 70 MHz bands, and is looking for contacts with all the divisions in South Africa.

Tropo Ducting frequently manifests along the West coast and could provide Cape Town with strong SSB signals on 144 MHz emanating 3000 km away from St. Helena or Namibia; as often logged from Reunion Island over a similar distance. Many years ago Terry Cotton, ZS1HS (now ZS1AYJ), had daily contacts with Gerhardt Schlorf, ZS3B, at Luderitz while he was resident at Green Point in Cape Town. So make an effort and do some real amateur radio pioneering on VHF.

VHF/UHF Contests this Week

SARL VHF/UHF Analogue/Digital Contest

10:00 UTC 19 March to 10:00 UTC 20 March

Mode: analogue - CW, SSB and FM, Digital

Bands: 50 MHz, 70 MHz, 144 MHz, 432 MHz, 1296 MHz

Classes: Base - unlimited, analogue or digital; Field - unlimited, analogue or digital; Club/Multi-Op - unlimited, analogue or digital; 4-Hour Limited - unlimited, analogue or digital

Exchange: RS and 6-character grid locator

Work stations: Once per band

Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 3 April 2016

E-mail logs to: contest@sarl.org.za

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=20151130131559djqp8afPgb.PDF>

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest

14:00 - 17:00 UTC 19 March (144) and 17:00 - 18:00 UTC 19 March (432)

Mode: CW

Bands: 144 MHz, 432 MHz

Classes: Single Op

Max operating hours: 3 hours: 144 MHz; 2 hours: 432 MHz

Max power: A: 5 W; B: 5 - 50 W; C: >50 W

Exchange: RST, "/", serial no, "/", power class, "/" and 6-character grid locator

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per km per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 4 April 2016

E-mail logs to: vhf-uhf@agcw.de

Mail logs to: Manfred Busch, DK7ZH, Ebachstr 13, D-35716 Dietzhoelztal-Mandeln, Germany

Find rules at: <http://www.agcw.org/index.php/en/contests-and-cw-activities/vhf-uhf-contest>

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter